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Sirs:

I have been an albacore fisherman for 45 years. I fish with my 87 foot pole and line vessel which supports eight families entirely from the albacore fishery. I am writing to you in earnest as you renegotiate the treaty with Canada to request that you review carefully the benefits/cost to the US and Canada. In the 45 years that I have fished albacore, the US EEZ and international waters have provided 99% of my catch. In the 1970's for 3 years, an ocean anomaly created a condition where the majority of the albacore run was in Canadian waters. This has not occurred since that time and the overwhelming production of albacore occurs within the US EEZ. The treaty has been overwhelmingly advantageous to the Canadian fleet and detrimental to the US fleet.

The US fleet is forced to compete with a large Canadian fleet for albacore within the US EEZ. The large Canadian fleet has pressured the small US fleet and reduced our catch as we all compete for a limited resource. We have to compete with the Canadian fleet outside the US EEZ and within it. The Canadians permit their fleet which created an artificial economy that adds value to the Canadian vessels via the value of the permit, unlike the US which allows any US vessel to fish albacore.

In short, because of the treaty and the Canadian opportunity to fish inside the US EEZ, there is a huge Canadian fleet that is driven to compete with US boats limiting the amount of fish that US boats can catch. The bottom line is that there is only so much fish to catch each year and the Canadian's fleet is diminishing the amount of fish supporting US families. The treaty has no long term benefits to US fisherman,

I sincerely request that you do not renew the treaty with Canada and allow American fisherman to make a living in American waters.